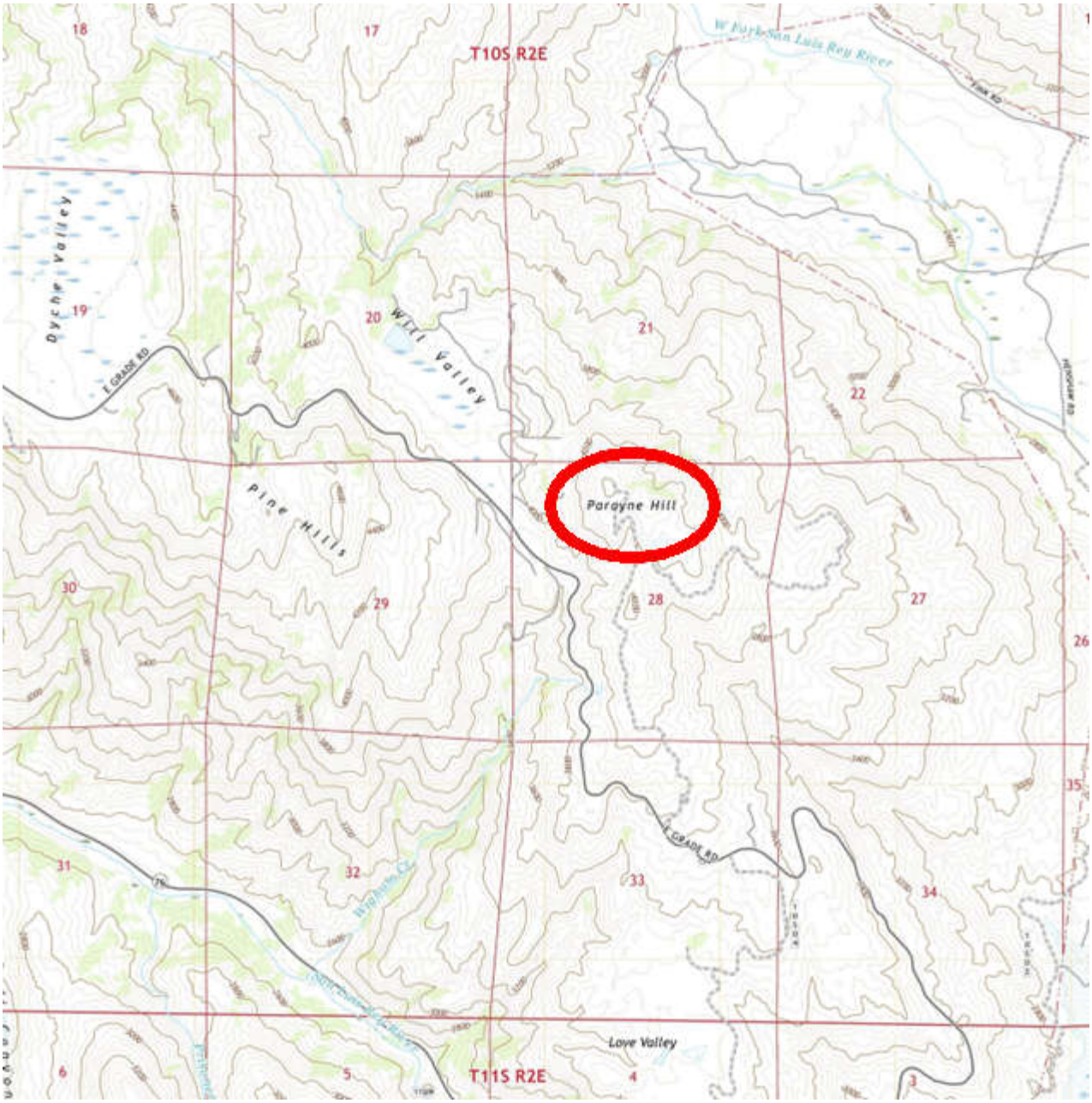
The Peyregnes and Parayne Hill on Palomar Mountain

Peter Brueggeman 2026

Uncited information and images are from ancestry.com, findagrave.com, and www.familysearch.org. Property records were not searched. Property information comes from the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records database and from newspaper notices.

Parayne Hill is located southeast of Will Valley and north of Love Valley on Palomar Mountain.

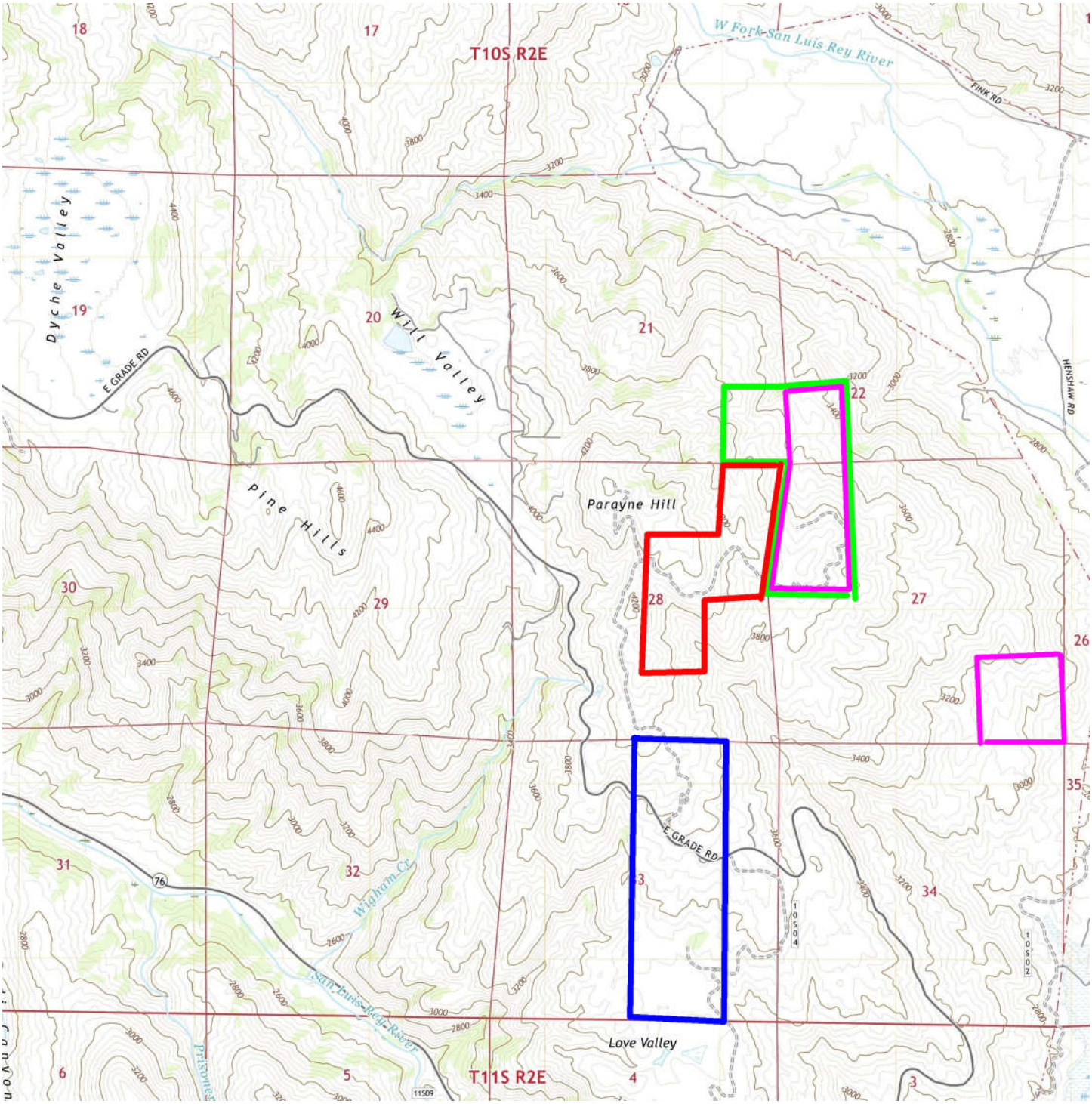


Parayne Hill on the 2021 U.S.G.S. Palomar Observatory map

Parayne Hill is a misspelling of Peyregne and refers to the twin Peyregne brothers, Jean Bertrand and Jean Louis Peyregne, and a relative, William Louis Peyregne, who owned adjacent land. The name Parayne Hill first appeared on the 1949 U.S.G.S Palomar Observatory map; it did not appear on the 1939 U.S.G.S. Palomar Mountain map.

Parayne Hill is not alone on Palomar Mountain in being misspelled after its namesake; others are Colb Valley and Boucher Hill. Leland Fetzer stated in his book “San Diego County Place Names, A to Z” (San Diego: Sunbelt Publications, 2005) that “USGS mapmakers seem to have obtained their place name information from interviews, not from printed sources.”

The following is a composite of Palomar Mountain land for the three Peyregnes from BLM General Land Office and newspaper records, overlaid on the 2021 Palomar Observatory map. There may be more Peyregne land involved than this because San Diego County land records were not searched.



Jean Bertrand Peyregne with his wife Viviana Morel, c1871

Jean Bertrand Peyregne was born in France on December 19, 1828, alongside his twin brother Jean Louis Peyregne.

Bertrand Peyregne's gravestone differs and says he (and thus his twin brother) were born December 25, 1828.

In 1851, Bertrand Peyregne came to the U.S. via New Orleans and went on to become a gold miner in Sonora, California in 1855. He was in Siskiyou County at the time of the 1860 U.S.

Census. His 1907 biography states that he found success as a miner for twelve years, and in 1867, he moved to Los Angeles and engaged in buying and selling cattle [3].

In 1871, Bertrand Peyregne married Viviana Morel (aka Morrel or Morrell, born in San Buenaventura [Ventura], California on June 10, 1856 – died July 11, 1914) when he was living in San Fernando working as a stockraiser [3]. Bertrand and Viviana Peyregne moved to Riverside County in 1874, homesteading in Leon near Menifee, raising sheep [3]. The Great Register of San Diego County for 1880 lists Bertrand Peyregne with occupation sheep owner living in Temecula; he became a naturalized citizen in Calaveras County in 1865 or in Los Angeles in 1871 and registered to vote in 1880.

In 1883, Bertrand Peyregne filed a preemption claim on 160 acres on Palomar Mountain (newspaper notice published on February 1, 1883), and it is recorded as being sold (not homesteaded) to Bertrand Peyregne on June 12, 1885 [1,4].

Bertrand Peyregne's 1907 biography states [3]:

> BERTRAND PEYREGNE. As may be judged from his name, Mr. Peyregne is a Frenchman, and all of the refinement and graciousness of that nationality are his in large measure. Born in the ancient town of Toulouse, France, in 1828 he received a careful training in the schools of that city and at an early age he began to be self-supporting. Farming was his choice of vocation, and this he followed in his native country for a number or years, or until he came to the United States in 1851. The vessel in which he set sail from France anchored its cargo in New Orleans, and in that southern city he remained for three years, finding employment there as peddler of goods. From there he went to Cincinnati and stayed ten months. During all of this time the news from the gold fields of California was the common topic of conversation and was described in detail and at considerable length in the newspapers of the city where he was then living, so that his interest in and final removal to the scene of the excitement was a most natural consequence. Debarking at San Francisco March 3, 1855, he at once made his way to the mines of Sonora, Tuolumne county, the rush to that part of the country then being at high tide. In his venture as a miner it is safe to conclude that he was fairly successful at least, for it is known that he followed the business successively for twelve years. Leaving Tuolumne county in 1867 he went direct to Los Angeles, where for a number of years he engaged in buying and selling cattle.
>
> It was during the year 1874 that Mr. Peyregne came to Riverside county and took up land from the government for the purpose of making a home for his family. As may be inferred the land was entirely uncultivated and of improvements there were none; however he spared neither labor nor such means as he could command to put it in a habitable condition, and the adobe house which he erected at that time is still the family residence. During the

> early days of his experience in the Menifee valley he engaged quite extensively in the raising of sheep, an industry which netted him an excellent income. Since 1885, however, he has given his attention more exclusively to ranching, and though well advanced in years is still active and takes the same interest in his affairs that prompted and brought success in the efforts of early years. The ranch comprises one hundred and eighty-five acres, and lies in close proximity to Leon, which is his postoffice and market town.
>
> At Newhall, Los Angeles county, in 1871, Mr. Peyregne was married to Miss Vervanua Morell, who was born in Ventura, June 10, 1856. All of the six children born of their marriage are living and are named in order of birth as follows: Clara, who is married, and with her husband, Jesse C. Mitchell, makes her home in Stockton; Joseph, a resident of San Pedro; Louise, at home; Alexander, also in San Pedro; and Henry and Alice, both of whom are also at home with their parents. Mr. Peyregne was early in life made familiar with the teachings of the Catholic faith, and his own children have also had a similar training, the family worshipping in the church of that denomination at Leon. There is probably no one in the Menifee valley who is not familiar with the name of Betrand Peyregne, which is a synonym for all that is just and upright, this being the universal verdict of those who have been in close touch with his life and habits for the past thirty-two years, or ever since he became a pioneer settler in the valley.

By 1913, Bertrand and Viviana Peyregne had moved to Redondo Beach and listed their Menifee ranch for sale [6]. Viviana died in 1914, and Bertrand Peyregne was living in Stockton in 1917.

Bertrand Peyregne died April 13, 1919, and is buried in Inglewood, Los Angeles County. His death notice in the Los Angeles Times stated [11]:

> PEYREGNE. In this city, Bertrand Peyregne, formerly of Riverside, Cal., loving father of Joseph, Alexander and Henry Peyregne, Mrs. Clara Mitchell and Mrs. Louise Kinny. Funeral Thursday, 2 p.m, from the chapel of Godeau & Martinoni, 827 South Figueroa. Internment, Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Findagrave ID 23637723

Jean Louis Peyregne

Jean Louis Peyregne was born in France on December 19, 1828, alongside his twin brother Jean Bertrand Peyregne. The Great Register of San Diego County for 1880 lists Luis Peyregne with occupation sheep raiser living in Temecula; he became a naturalized citizen in San Diego County in 1875 and registered to vote in 1880. Louis Peyregne was living in Temecula in the 1880 U.S. Census with occupation hostler (a man employed to look after the horses of people staying at an inn). In 1883, Louis Peyregne filed a preemption claim on 160 acres on Palomar Mountain (newspaper notice published on February 1, 1883) and he proved up on July 9, 1889 [1,4].

In March 1885, the San Diego Union published legal notices of Jefferson Cook's preemption claim on his land proving continuous residence and cultivation, with L. Peyreqne (Jean Louis Peyregne) as one of the witnesses [8].

Edward Davis writes [7]:

> Another Frenchman Louis Peyregne, raised sheep at Menifee and had a band of several hundred sheep. All perished by drought. He then worked for Louis Wolf at Little Temecula Ranch for six years, saved his money, bought a bunch of cattle from Castro, and brought them first to Love Valley and later to a valley below the Fink place. I remember Louis, a tall raw-boned Frenchman, who could only talk broken English, because he used to come to Gedney's store at Mesa Grande to get shoes he had ordered months before. His feet were so large his shoes had to be built for him once a year: no factory shoes for him. 1 have heard it said, when Louis came to Mesa Grande for supplies at the store near the schoolhouse, the teacher would let the children out to run over and see Louis' big feet.

Gedney's store at Mesa Grande is James Edgar Gedney. Davis spelled it Menifoo and Pereen. Davis said Louis Wolff at Pauma Ranch. Louis Wolf of Temecula purchased the 2283-acre Little Temecula Ranch in 1870 and was not affiliated with Pauma Ranch.

In an oral history, Winbert Fink said [9]:

> After (Joseph) Smith's permanent location on the mountain, another pioneer followed the trail up to the first valley above the Warner Ranch. This was Louis Peyreyne, a Frenchman. He built an adobe house and fenced a large field with a rail and picket fence. He had dragged the material for the fence down the mountain. When the placed looked [sic] he sold for a good price and moved farther up the mountain where later he had 320 acres of range land. There he built a house and improved the land. At that time the nurserymen got much of their stock of trees, vines and flowers from France and Belgium, brought here by sailing vessels around the Horn. He was pleased to get trees and vines he was familiar with at his old home. He made

> his place well known for the fruit grown there. He would take it down trail on horseback to the ranchers and to the trading post at Warner Store. He passed to his reward in 1893, loved by all who knew him and was buried at the home place.

Louis Peyregne died in 1893 and was probably buried on Palomar Mountain. On December 28, 1893, the estate sale of his 320 acres of Palomar Mountain land included two horses, four head of cattle, one lumber wagon, harness, plows, two shot guns, farming tools, household furniture, and cooking utensils [10].

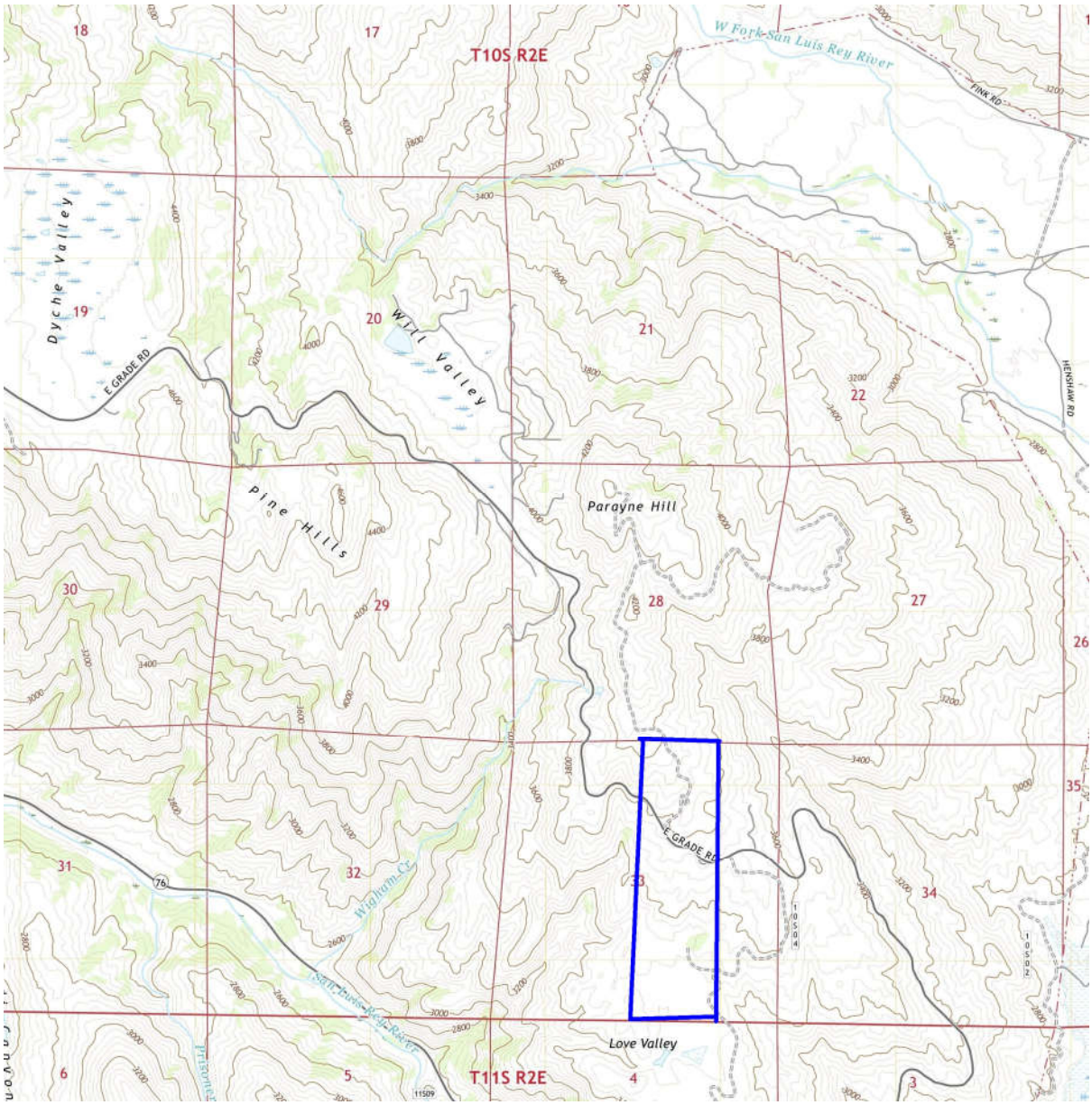
William Louis Peyregne

William Louis Peyregne was probably a relative and acquired land for a Peyregne enterprise on Palomar; he purchased 160 acres on Palomar Mountain adjacent to his relatives that was recorded on July 30, 1891 [1].

William Louis Peyregne was born in Louisiana on January 25, 1860, and died in San Francisco on September 27, 1908; his father was born in France. William Louis Peyregne was living in New Orleans in 1886, working as a grocer, and was living in Los Angeles in 1893, working as a bartender. If he lived on Palomar Mountain, it was only for a year or two. He moved to Sacramento by 1896, and then was living in San Francisco by 1900.

1883 Jean Bertrand Peyregne Palomar land purchase

In 1883, Bertrand Peyregne filed a preemption claim on 160 acres on Palomar Mountain (blue lines; newspaper notice published on February 1, 1883) [4]. The U.S Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office records it being sold by the U.S. Government (not homesteaded) to Bertrand Peyregne on June 12, 1885 [1].



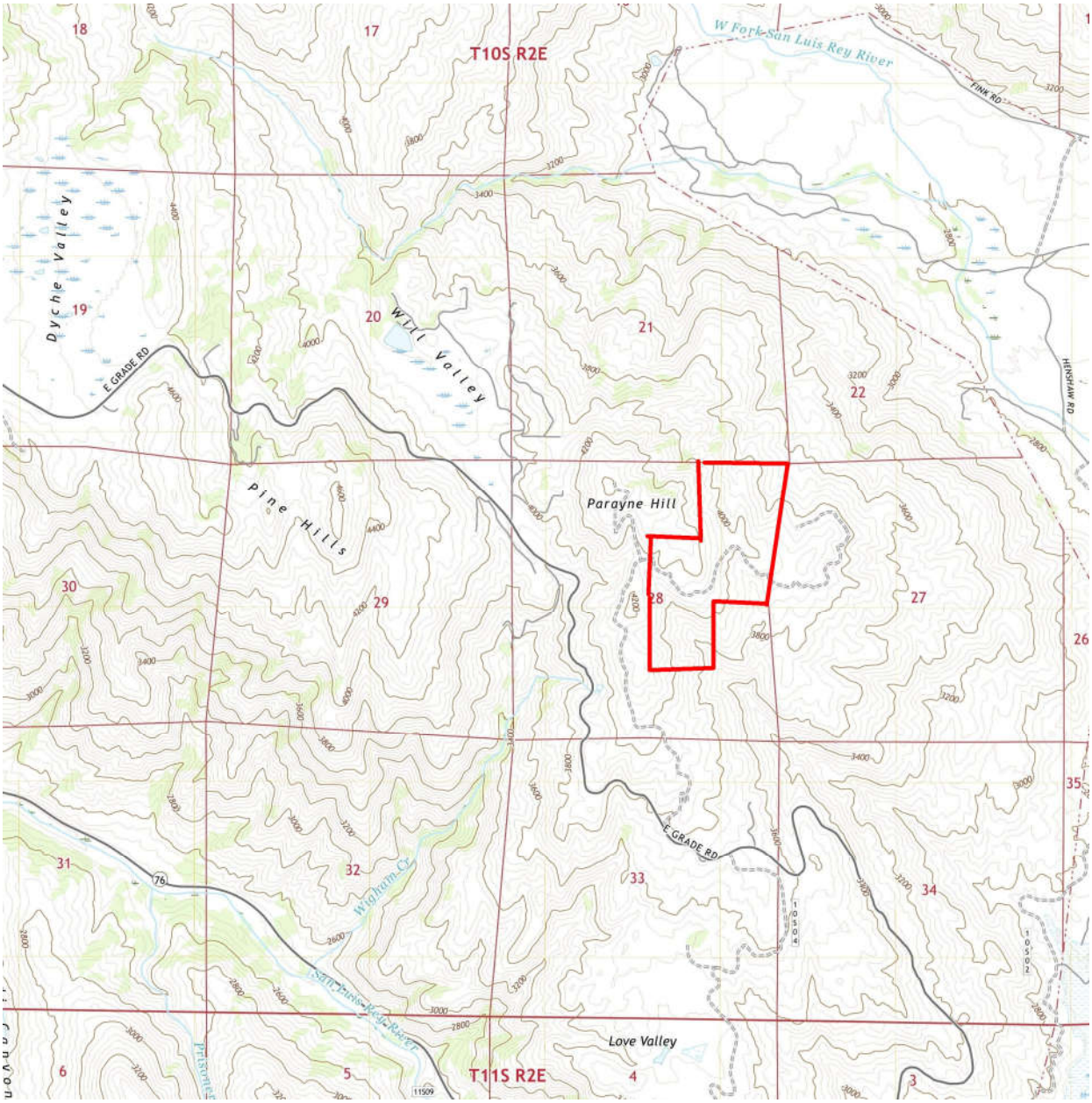
1883 Palomar land purchase by Jean Bertrand Peyregne [1] on the 2021 Palomar Observatory map

Previously on October 28, 1884, the San Diego Sun newspaper reported that Bertrand Peyregne sold John A. Love that same 160 acres for $1,100 [2]. There's a period of several months between Peyregne's sale to Love and Peyregne's recorded purchase of that land.

In 1886, Bertrand Peyregne started a homestead on 160 acres near Menifee, Riverside County, northwest of Palomar Mountain, and proved up on November 16, 1891 [1].

1883 Jean Louis Peyregne Palomar homestead land

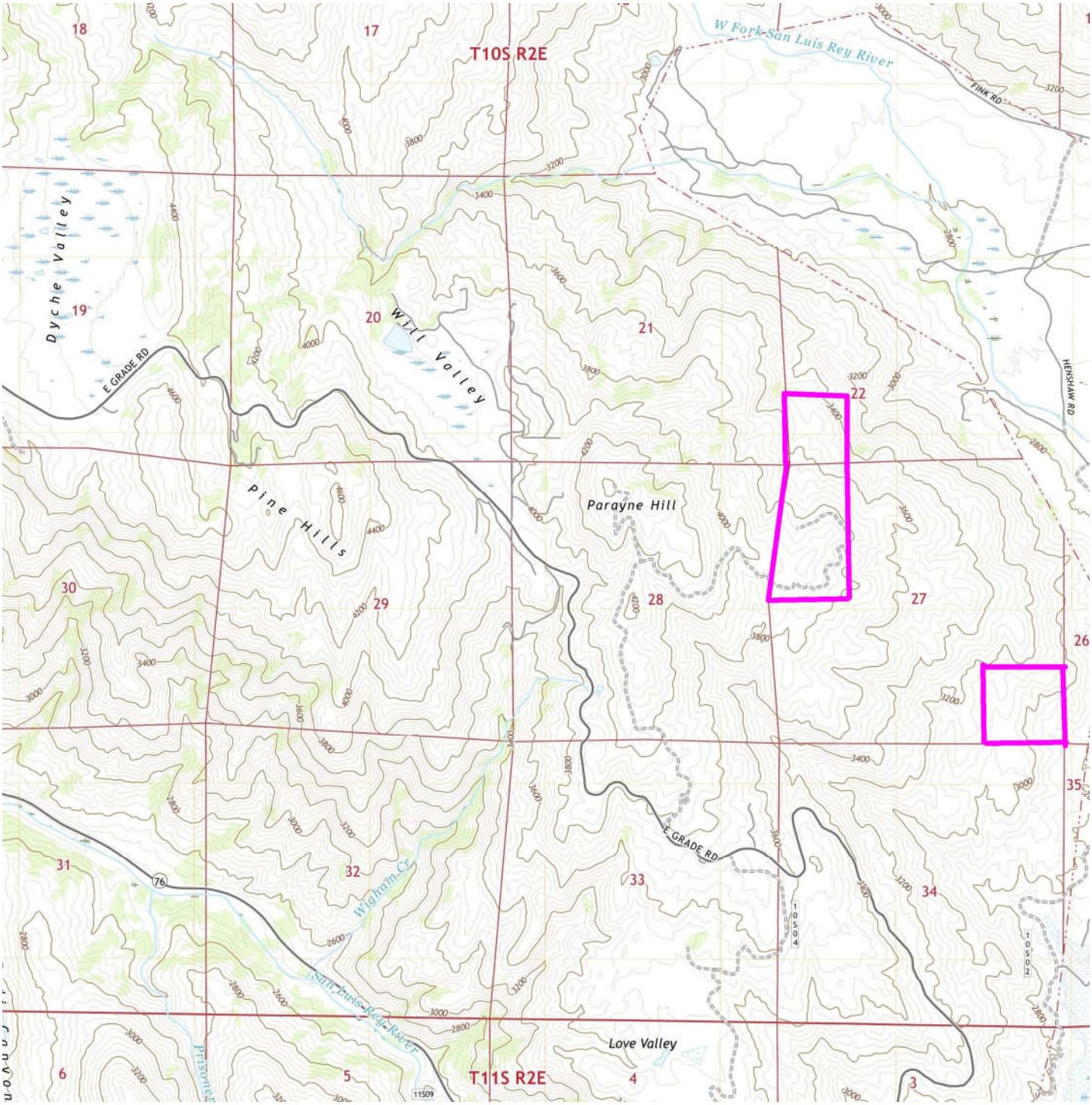
In 1883, Louis Peyregne filed a preemption homestead claim on 160 acres on Palomar Mountain (red lines; newspaper notice published on February 1, 1883) and he proved up on July 9, 1889 [1,4].



1889 Palomar homestead granted to Jean Louis Peyregne [1] on the 2021 Palomar Observatory map

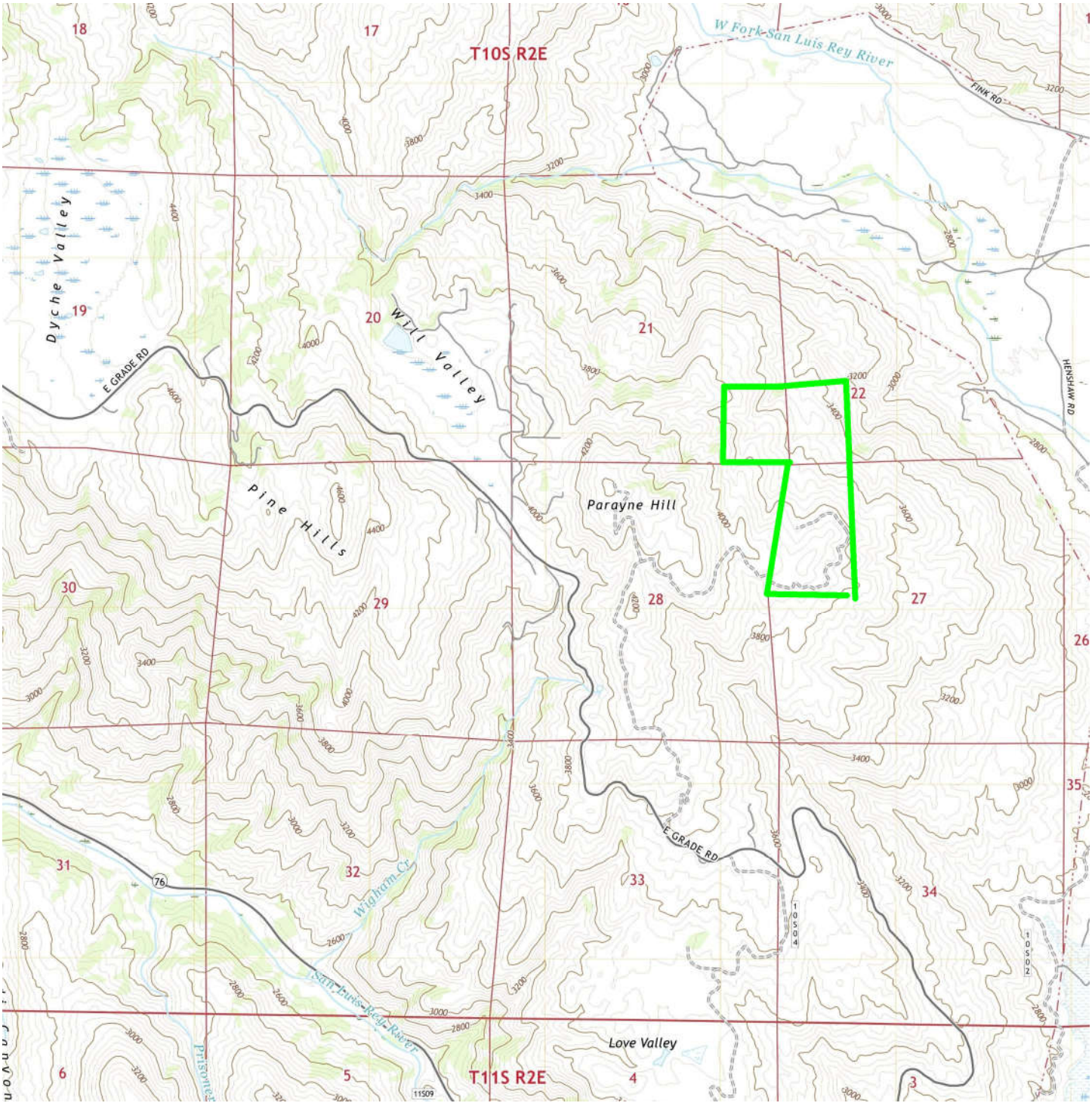
1890 William Louis Peyregne Palomar land sale

William Louis Peyregne sold Palomar Mountain land to Jean Louis Peyregne for $43 (pink lines) with the deed filed on October 29, 1890 [5].



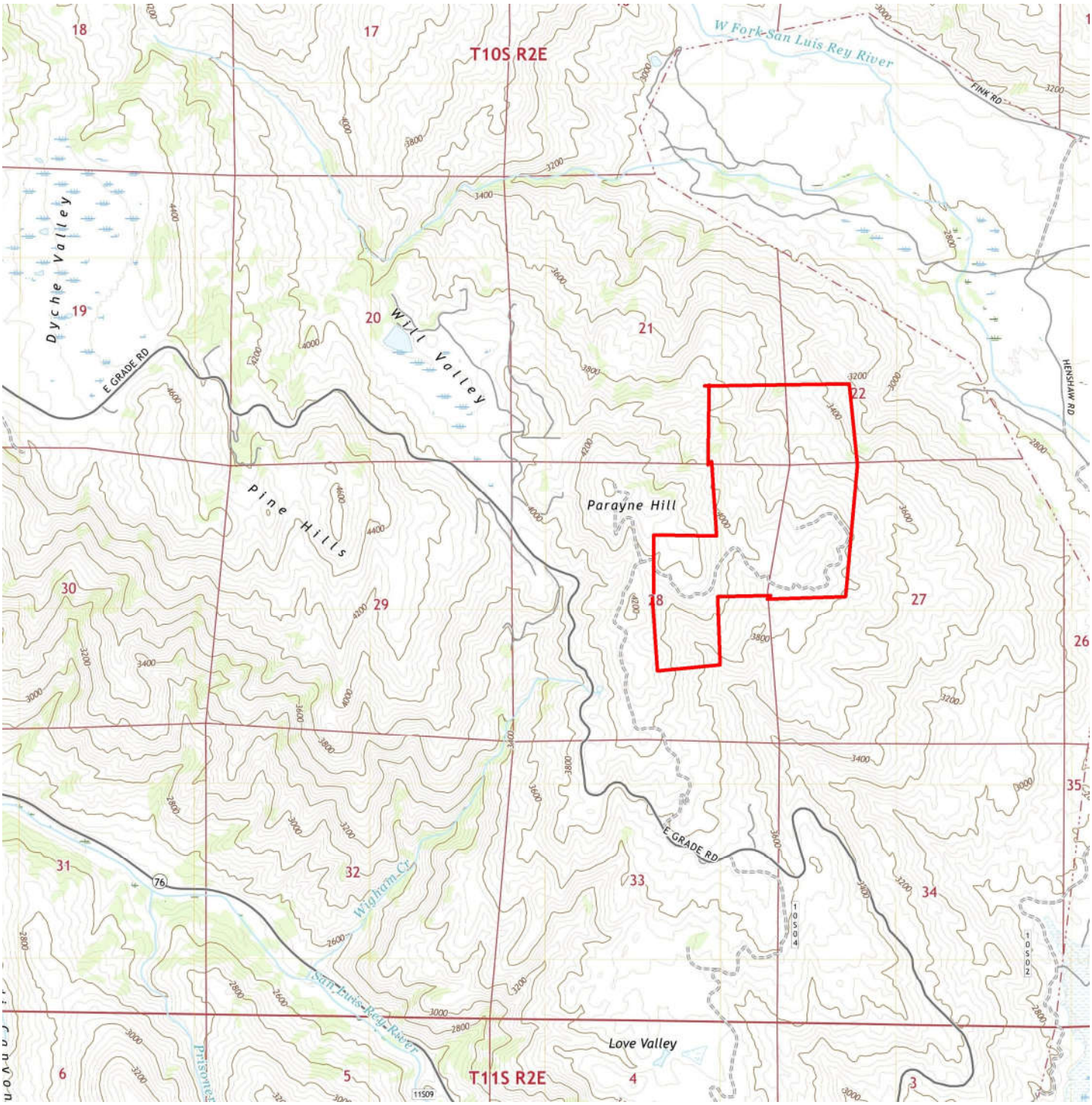
1890 sale by William Louis Peyregne to Jean Louis Peyregne [5] on the 2021 Palomar Observatory map

William Louis Peyregne purchased 160 acres on Palomar Mountain from the U.S. Government (green lines) that was recorded July 30, 1891 [1]. Most of this land was involved in the previous transaction above.



1891 Palomar land purchase by William Louis Peyregne [1] on the 2021 Palomar Observatory map

1893 Jean Louis Peyregne estate sale on Palomar



1893 Jean Louis Peyregne estate sale of 320 acres [10] on the 2021 Palomar Observatory map

References

1= U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx

Bertrand Peyregne, Cash entry 160 acres 6/12/1885
Township - Range 10S - 2E, Section 33, Aliquots W½ of E½

Bertrand Peyregne, Homestead 160 acres 11/16/1891
Township - Range 6S - 3W, Section 12, Aliquots NE¼

Louis Peyregne, Homestead 160 acres 7/9/1889
Township - Range 10S - 2E, Section 28, Aliquots E½ of NE¼, Aliquots SW¼ of NE¼, Aliquots NW¼ of SE¼

Louis Peyregne, Homestead 160 acres 7/9/1889
Township - Range 10S - 2E, Section 28, Aliquots S½ of NE¼, Aliquots NE¼ of NE¼, Aliquots NW¼ of SE¼

William L. Peyregne, Cash Entry 160 acres 7/30/1891
Township - Range 10S - 2E, Section 21, Aliquots SE¼ of SE¼; Township - Range 10S - 2E, Section 22, Aliquots SW¼ of SW¼; Township - Range 10S - 2E, Section 27, Aliquots W½ of NW¼

2= The Sun (San Diego), November 1, 1884, page 3, column 3 [blue lines on map: 10S 2E, section 33, W ½ of NE ¼ and W ½ of SE ¼]
3= A History of California … J.M. Guinn, Volume 1. Los Angeles: Historic Record Company, 1907
4= The Sun (San Diego), February 1, 1883, page 5, column 3
5= San Diego Weekly Union, October 30, 1890, page 4, column 7
Township - Range 10S - 2E, Section 27, Aliquots SE ¼ of SE ¼, Section 22, Aliquots SW ¼ of SW ¼, Section 27, Aliquots W ½ of NW ¼
6= Perris Progress, April 10, 1913, page 5, column 3
7= Palomar and the Stars. Edward H. Davis, 1947 archive.org/details/davis-palomar-stars_20230205
8= San Diego Union, March 15, 1885, page 4, column 6
9= Smith Mountain – Palomar. Fink, W. C. undated, circa 1937. Unpublished manuscript. San Diego History Center Collection #TMS FINW
10= Escondido Times, November 30, 1893, page 2, column 5; San Diego Weekly Union, December 28, 1893, page 8, column 4
11= Los Angeles Times, April 15, 1919, page 12, column 8